

03500.015453.2



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
MASAHIKO KUBOTA, et al.)
Application No.: 10/646,700)
Filed: August 25, 2003)
For: SOLID SEMICONDUCTOR)
ELEMENT, INK TANK,)
INK JET RECORDING)
APPARATUS PROVIDED)
WITH INK TANK, LIQUID)
INFORMATION ACQUIRING)
METHOD AND LIQUID)
PHYSICAL PROPERTY CHANGE : September 30, 2003
DISCRIMINATING METHOD)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 5,583,545
U.S. Patent 5,623,290
U.S. Patent 5,729,256
U.S. Patent 6,010,210
Europe 405,555
Europe 585,560
Europe 840,098
Europe 878,316

Germany 198 09 855
Japan 56-39414
PCT/WO 98/52762
J.W. Haskell, "Ink Concentration Monitor", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 20, No. 2, July 1977.

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated July 4, 2003, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Other documents cited in the Search Report have been cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated August 22, 2003.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report does not list English language counterparts of Japan 56-39414 or German 198 09 855, but an English language abstract of each has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention.

Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)S P E J C 139
OCT 01 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

Masahiko Kubota, et al.

FILING DATE

August 25, 2003

GROUP

Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| | 5,583,545 | 12/10/96 | Pawlowski, Jr. | 347 | 7 | |
| | 5,623,290 | 4/22/97 | Iida, et al | 347 | 7 | |
| | 5,729,256 | 3/17/98 | Yamanaka, et al | 347 | 7 | |
| | 6,010,210 | 1/4/00 | Wilson, et al | 347 | 85 | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
|--|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| | 405,555 | 1/2/91 | Europe | | | |
| | 585,560 | 3/9/94 | Europe | | | |
| | 840,098 | 5/6/98 | Europe | | | |
| | 878,316 | 11/18/98 | Europe | | | |
| | 198 09 855 | 9/9/99 | Germany | | | Abstract |
| | 56-39414 | 4/15/81 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 98/52762 | 11/26/98 | PCT/WO | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | | J.W. Haskell, "Ink Concentration Monitor", IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 20, No. 2, July 1977. |
| | | |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1